



# 177th FIGHTER WING JERSEY DEVILS



## SAFETY AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2002



### HALLOWEEN SAFETY



Halloween is coming! All those cute little critters running around getting their goodies. Trick or Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door to door, begging "Tricks or Treats!" from neighbors or at the local mall. It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain. Here are just a few safety tips from your Wing Safety Office to help keep this 2002 Halloween Day fun and safe.



⇒ Children should go out during daylight hours and should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

⇒ Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves.

⇒ Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places. Stay in well lighted areas.

⇒ Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult.

⇒ Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween. Make sure an older sibling or adult is with them.

⇒ Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.

⇒ Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.

⇒ Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.

⇒ Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.

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If you have any safety related topics you would like to see in our publication or have any questions that we can help with, please contact the Wing Safety Office at 6013 or e-mail at [Robert.Fusco@njatla.af.mil](mailto:Robert.Fusco@njatla.af.mil)

From Everyone at the Wing Safety Office,  
Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!!

## FIRE SAFETY

Every fire safety team starts with firefighters - but they can't do it alone. Effective fire safety depends on teamwork. That's why the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week (FPW) is "Team Up for Fire Safety™." It's a simple idea: team up with the people with whom you live, work, play, and worship so that all of you will be better prepared to prevent, and if necessary, survive a home fire.

**This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign touches on three simple but essential safety lessons that everyone can learn:**

- ⇒ Installing and testing smoke alarms
- ⇒ Practicing home escape plans
- ⇒ Hunting for home hazards

**Safety Tips:** Installing/testing smoke alarms - These easy safety tips can keep your whole family safer.

*Tips for installing your smoke alarms correctly:*

- ↳ Install smoke alarms Listed (examined and tested to appropriate product safety standards) by a qualified testing laboratory on every level of your home, including the basement (but not unfinished attics). Make sure there is an alarm in or near every sleeping area.
- ↳ Mount the smoke alarms high on ceilings or walls – remember, smoke rises. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- ↳ Don't install smoke alarms near windows, outside doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- ↳ Don't paint your smoke alarms; paint or other decorations could keep them from working when you most need it.

*Tips for keeping your smoke alarms working properly:*

Test your smoke alarms at least once a month by using the alarms' "test button." Never use an open-flame device to test the alarm as you could burn yourself or start a fire. If the smoke alarm manufacturer's instructions permit the use of an aerosol smoke product for testing the smoke alarm, only use one that has been Listed by a third-party product testing agency, and utilize it in accordance with the product instructions.

**Safety Tips:** Home Fire Escape Plans - They can make the difference between life and death.

Developing and practicing a home fire escape plan that everyone understands can mean the difference between life and death. Fire can grow and spread through your home very quickly. It's important that you be prepared to react as soon as the smoke alarm sounds. These tips can help you put together—and practice – an effective home fire escape plan.

- ↳ Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Draw a floor plan of your home, showing two ways out of each room, including windows. Don't forget to mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- ↳ Test all smoke alarms (Listed by a qualified testing laboratory) monthly to ensure that they work. Replace batteries as needed.

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- ↳ Make sure that everyone understands the escape plan. Are the escape routes clear? Can doors and windows be opened easily?
- ↳ If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have quick-release mechanisms so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Quick-release mechanisms won't compromise your security – but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.
- ↳ Practice the escape plan at least twice a year, making sure that everyone is involved – from kids to grandparents. If there are infants or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them.
- ↳ Agree on an outside meeting place where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Remember to get out first, then call for help. Never go back inside until the fire department gives the OK.
- ↳ Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a cellular phone or a neighbor's home.
- ↳ Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. And once you're out, stay out – leave the firefighting to the professionals!
- ↳ If you live in an apartment building, make sure that you're familiar with the building's evacuation plan. In case of a fire, use the stairs, never the elevator.
- ↳ Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan. When visiting other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one.

### **Safety Tips:** Hunting for home hazards

- ↳ Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- ↳ Keep cooking areas clean and clear of materials that could catch fire, such as pot-holders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging.
- ↳ Give space heaters plenty of space. Space heaters should be at least three feet (one meter) away from anything that could burn. Always make sure to turn heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ↳ Solid-fueled heating equipment, including chimneys, chimney connectors, fireplaces, and wood or coal stoves should be inspected by a professional every year and cleaned as often as necessary.
- ↳ Lit candles should be monitored constantly by an adult and extinguished when adults leave the room or go to sleep.
- ↳ Never leave children alone with burning candles. NFPA recommends against allowing children to have candles in their bedrooms.
- ↳ Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach – preferably in a locked cabinet.
- ↳ In homes with small children, receptacle outlets should have plastic safety covers. To reduce the risk of electrical shock, install GFCIs (ground-fault circuit-interrupters). GFCIs shut off faulty electrical circuits and equipment more quickly than conventional fuses or circuit breakers. The devices are inexpensive and can be hard-wired into your home's electrical system by a professional electrician.

## HAZARD ALERT

**CPSC, XL Machine Ltd. Announce Recall of Playskool Toy Chests Sold at Target**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), XL Machine Ltd., of Eden Prairie, Minn., is voluntarily recalling about 3,300 toy chests. Screws in the chests' lid support hinges can loosen over time, and come out from the base of the toy chests. If this happens, the lids of the toy chests can collapse suddenly, possibly causing injuries to children's head, neck, fingers or hands.

CPSC and XL have received one report of screws in the lid support hinge of a toy chest coming out, resulting in one injury, a bruise to the neck.

These blue toy chests measure 18.5-inches by 12-inches by 12-inches, and were sold under the Playskool brand name. On the toy chest lid top are depictions of "Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head" characters and the "PLAYSKOOL" logo. The front panel has a "Glow Worm" figure and a dog. The bottom of the toy chests contains "DISTRIBUTED BY: XL MACHINE LTD, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55347." The chests were made in China.

Target stores sold the toy chest nationwide from October 2001 through December 2001 for about \$50.

Consumers should take these toy chests away from young children immediately and return them to the Target store where it was purchased for a refund or store credit. For more information, contact XL Machine toll-free at (866) 746-8097 anytime, or go to Target's web site at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com)

**CPSC, Black & Decker Announce Recall to Repair Table Saws**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., of Towson, Md., is voluntarily recalling about 6,100 table saws. The motor housing on the saw may crack, posing a risk of electric shock to consumers.



Black & Decker has not received any reports of injuries. This recall to repair is being conducted to prevent the occurrence of injuries.

The recall involves 10-inch table saws, made in Taiwan, with the model number BT2500 and dates codes 200128-CT through 200148-CT. The model number and date codes are located on a name plate on the front panel above the power switch. The saw is grey with an orange front panel. The name "Black & Decker" is located on the lower right hand portion of the front panel.

Home centers and hardware stores nationwide sold the table saws from August 2001 through April 2002 for about \$400.

Consumers should stop using these table saws immediately, unplug them, and call Black & Decker at (866) 357-0324 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to arrange for a free repair. For more information, consumers can log on to the company's website at [www.blackanddecker.com](http://www.blackanddecker.com).

No other Black & Decker table saws are involved in this recall to repair.

**For more information on the current or any past recalls visit CPSC's homepage at <http://www.cpsc.gov/>**

# AUTOMOBILE SAFETY CHECK

We get in and out of our automobiles every day and just assume that they are safe and in good working and running condition. There are some safety checks we can make to our automobile that we may not think of everytime we get into the car.

## SEAT BELT SAFETY

### One Of The Most Overlooked Safety Items On Automobiles Is The Seat Belt

Perhaps one of the most overlooked safety items on automobiles is the seat belt. Most people do not give seat belts a second thought, but they should check them to insure a families safety.

Currently there are not any laws that require automotive seat belt checks on ordinary family cars. However, did you know that seat belts in racing cars must be replaced every other racing season? This is an expensive rule but it keeps every driver safe. Seat belts can rot, seams can deteriorate and webbing can become cut or torn.

It only takes a few minutes to inspect your seat belts. Older vehicles should be closely checked due to age and wear. To check the seat belt retractors you must actually strap in and find a safe spot where you can do a quick stop. While stopping you should feel the seat belts lock so your body weight can not move forward. Once the vehicle comes to a stop the seat belt should be able to be pulled out smoothly and freely.

If the belt fails any of the checks it needs replacement. A quick check of your seat belts could save your life.

## Have you Checked Your Tires?

Tires must be replaced when the tread is worn down to 1/16 of an inch in order to prevent skidding and hydroplaning. An easy test: place a penny into a tread groove. If part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the proper amount of tread. If you can see all of his head, you should buy a new tire.

Built-in treadwear indicators, or "wear bars," which look like narrow strips of smooth rubber across the tread will appear on the tire when the tread is worn down to one-sixteenth of an inch. When you see these "wear bars," the tire is worn out and should be replaced.

Visually check your tires for signs of uneven wear. You may have irregular tread wear if there are high and low areas or unusually smooth areas.

If you are not sure if your tires need to be replaced then it may be best to take your car to your local tire dealer and just get them replaced. It is better to be on the safe side.

**CLICK IT**

**OR**

**TICK IT**